

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02404 221725Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 127082

O 221643Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4713

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 2404

EXDIS

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY EDWARD MULCAHY OR DEPUTY ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY JAMES BLAKE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP US MR

SUBJECT: ADVERSE GIRM REACTION TO COMPOSITION OF US DELEGATION TO  
MAURITANIAN INDEPENDENCE FESTIVITIES

REF: A. NOUAKCHOTT1984 (SEPT 29) B. NOUAKCHOTT 2281 (NOV 6)  
C. STATE 274862 (NOV 21)

1. INABILITY OF USG TO FIELD DELEGATION HEADED BY PROMINENT AND  
WELL KNOWN AMERICAN TO REPRESENT UNITED STATES AT CELEBRATIONS  
MARKING FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF MAURITANIAN INDEPENDENCE HAS NOW  
"HIT THE FAN". 'ABD AR-RAHMANN OULD DADDAH (COUSIN OF MAURITANIAN  
PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH, FRIEND AND CONFIDANT OF MINISTER OF ST-  
ATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OULD MOUKNASS, AND CLASS MATE AND CLOSE  
FRIEND OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY SIDI ABDALLAHI AND  
GIRM AMBASSADOR TO US OULDOPAJALLAH) TELEPHONED FEW MINUTES AGO  
(EARLY AFTERNOON SATURDAY) TO EXPRESS DISMAY THAT US DELEGATION TO  
MAURITANIAN FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY "IS HEADED BY YOU AND CONSISTS  
OF TEXAS FARMER AND LEBANESE MERCHANT". OULD DADDAH UNDERSCORED  
SIGNIFICANCE OF INVITATION WHICH WAS EXTENDED TO US AND IMMENSE  
IMPORTANCE WHICH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE MAURITANIANS PLACE ON  
APPROPRIATE US RESPONSE. (MOREOVER ONLY VERY RESTRICTED NUMBER  
OF COUNTRIES WERE INVITED TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES.) HE RECALLED  
THAT INVITATION FOR "MINISTERIAL LEVEL" DELEGATION HAD  
BEEN EXTENDED IN SEPTEMBER, AND CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT US SHOULD  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 02404 221725Z

CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ORGANIZE SOMETHING BETTER THAN

AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL DELEGATION IN EIGHT WEEKS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT "GERMANS ARE SENDING MINISTER, FRENCH ARE SENDING MINISTER, AND CHINESE (PEKING) ARE SENDING MINISTER", AND COMMENTED "SURELY US CAN AT LEAST FIT AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY AROUND SOMEWHERE TO COME TO NOUAKCHOTT FOR ONE DAY". REFLECTING ON HIS YEARS IN US AS STUDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY OF ASSOCIATION WITH US BUSINESSMEN (AND SPEAKING IN AN EXCELLENT IDIOMATIC ENGLISH), OULD DADDAH DECLARED "I UNDERSTAND THAT PRIVATE CITIZENS ARE IMMENSELY IMPORTANT IN US AND THAT WEALTHY TEXAS RANCHER AND SENIOR CORPORATION EXECUTIVE WHO ARE FRIENDS OF PRESIDENT AND MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO REPUBLICAN PARTY MAY WELL BE MORE IMPORTANT TO MAURITANIA THAN SOME ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE. BUT NO ONE IN THE GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO UNDERSTAND THAT AND CERTAINLY THE ORDINARY PEOPLE WILL NOT". HE TERMED THE US DECISION "AN UNFORTUNATE MISTAKE" PARTICULARLY BECAUSE IT COMES AT A TIME "WHEN THINGS BETWEEN US AND MAURITANIA ARE JUST BEGINNING TO OPEN UP WIDE". HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF HAVING US DELEGATION HEADED BY WELL-KNOWN USG OFFICIAL WHO IS MEMBER OF PRESENT ADMINISTRATION OR OF SENATE "EVEN IF HE SPENDS ONLY ONE DAY IN NOUAKCHOTT". HE REPORTED THAT HE HAD TOLD THOSE IN GOVERNMENT WHO HAD COMMENTED ADVERSELY ABOUT COMPOSITION OF US DELEGATION THAT "HE WAS CERTAIN THAT US AMBASSADOR HERE HAD DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN AND EMPHASIZE TO HIS GOVERNMENT PRIME IMPORTANCE OF SENDING PRESTIGIOUS DELEGATION", AND HE URGED ME IN STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS TO RE-EXPLAIN AND RE-EMPHASIZE TO WASHINGTON NECESSITY OF DESPATCHING SOME PROMINENT OFFICIAL TO MAURITANIA FOR AT LEAST NOVEMBER 28. OULD DADDAH CONCLUDED WITH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WAS GOING TO TELEPHONE OR WIRE AMBASSADOR ABDALLAH THIS EVENING TO URGE HIM TO MAKE ROUNDS URGENTLY OF HIS CONTACTS IN WHITE HOUSE AND HIS FRIENDS ON THE HILL TO GET THEN TO GALVANIZE USG INTO TAKING NECESSARY ACTION TO CORRECT ITS MISTAKE.

2. 'ABD AR-RAHMANN OULD DADDAH WHILE CAREFUL TO COUCH HIS OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS IN PERSONAL TERMS WAS CLEARLY SPEAKING FOR THE VERY HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT. HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS AS INFORMAL AND UN-OFFICIAL GO-BETWEEN SIDI ABDALLAHI AND HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS AND ME. I AM THEREFORE CERTAIN IN MY OWN MIND THAT THE MESSAGE 'ABD AR-RAHMANN CONVEYED CAME AT LEAST FROM THE MINISTERS OF STATE/NATIONAL POLITICAL BUREAU LEVEL, IF NOT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC HIMSELF.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 02404 221725Z

3. I THEREFORE URGE YOU IN MOST VIGOROUS WAY POSSIBLE TO MAKE MAJOR, CRASH EFFORT TO GET SENIOR USG OFFICIAL WHO IS IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZED AS SUCH BY HIS PUBLIC REPUTATION OR TITLE ON TO PLANE FOR NOUAKCHOTT TO TAKE MY PLACE AS HEAD OF US DELEGATION FOR AT LEAST ONE DAY OF FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS. SENATOR DICK CLARK, SENATOR EDWARD BROOKE, SENATOR JAMES ABUREZK, CONGRESSMAN GUY VANDERJAGT, CONGRESSMAN ANDREW

YOUNG, UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON, ASSISTANT AID ADMINISTRATOR  
SCOTT, OR ANY AVAILABLE ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARE OBVIOUS  
POSSIBILITIES. IN A PINCH, JOE PALMER WOULD ALSO BE EFFECTIVE.

4. I FULLY RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE UP AGAINST A VERY TIGHT DEADLINE  
AND MUCH APPRECIATE THE SWEAT AND TEARS THAT HAVE ALREADY GONE  
INTO SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. BUT I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT MY OLD  
FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES IN THE DEPARTMENT WILL MARCH UP THE HILL  
ONCE MORE ON THIS ONE FOR UNITED STATES INTERESTS IN MAURITANIA  
AND FOR ME.

5. PER STATE 274862, OPERATIONS CENTER SHOULD ALSO CONTACT  
JIM BISHOP (AF/W) AT 667-3023 AND SHIELDS (S/CPR) AT 296-2166.

HANDYSIDE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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